

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the United States Trustee Northern District of Florida 227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 1038 Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: 850-942-8899 Fax: 850-942-8345

IMPORTANT 341 MEETING POLICY CHANGE

MEMORANDUM

To: Bankruptcy Practitioners and Pro Se Debtors

From: Charles F. Edwards, Assistant United States Trustee

Re: National Debtor Identification Program

Date: January 28, 2002

Effective for creditors meetings held on or after March 15, 2002 in the Northern District of Florida all individual debtors are required to provide picture identification and proof of social security number to the trustee at the 341 meeting.

Acceptable types of picture identification (only originals are acceptable):

Driver's license, government ID, state ID, student ID, U.S. passport, military ID, and resident alien card.

Acceptable proof of social security number (only originals are acceptable):

Social security card, medical insurance card, pay stub, W-2 form, IRS Form 1099, and Social Security Administration report.

Consequences for failure to have required documents:

If a debtor does not have acceptable documents the 341 meeting <u>will</u> be continued by the trustee. Failure to produce the required documents at the continued meeting will result in a Motion to Dismiss filed by the United States Trustee.

Consequences for error in social security number:

If there is an error, you will be required to file an Amended Petition pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr.P. 1009 within <u>ten</u> days from the creditors meeting to correct any incorrect social security number, and you will be required to provide a copy of the amended petition to the credit reporting agencies. Failure to do so will result in a Motion To Dismiss pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §707(a) filed by the United States Trustee. (Failure to correct social security number may result in dismissal. See, *In re Riccardo*, 248 B.R.717 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2000))

Goal is to protect innocent third parties from incorrect use of social security numbers:

Bankruptcy filings are primarily reported to credit agencies by social security number. The cost and hardship to correct an adverse credit history can be substantial. With your assistance, the National Debtor Identification Program instituted by the United States Trustee will limit the impact on innocent parties of a case which has been filed with an incorrect social security number.

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing this new policy.